30th January 1956]

Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanam Estate in Tiruvallur taluk

* 3086 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanam Estate in Tiruvallur taluk, Chingleput district, has been taken over by the Government;

(*b*) if so, when and on what terms? ;

(c) whether the village and last-grade officers previously working there have been absorbed in Government service; and

(*d*) if so, whether they are treated on a par with the other village and last-grade officers working in the ryotwari villages as regards emoluments, conditions of service, travelling allowance, etc. ?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) *to* (*d*) The answer [a] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Sir, when the estate was under the control of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanam, the village officers were able to get emoluments both from the devasthanam at Rs. 11 to Rs. 14 per mensem and from Government at Rs. 14 to Rs. 18 per mensem, but now after the estate has been taken over by the Government, they are given emoluments by the Government only at Rs. 14 to Rs. 18. They are not given the scales of pay that are given to village officers working in the ryotwari villages. They are thereby losing Rs. 11 to Rs. 16 per mensem just because the estate has been taken over by the Government. Will the Government seriously consider this question and see that they are given the scales of pay which they were getting from the devasthanam?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, this was considered seriously and it is proposed that the scales of pay prevailing in the ryotwari villages be given to them from April 1956.

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Sir, the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanam Estate was taken over by the Government in the year 1950 and the village officers were not given the emoluments which they were getting from the devasthanam since that year. This has badly affected the life of the village officers and their families. Will the Government, therefore, consider to give effect to this from the date of taking over of these villages by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I do not know whether the hon. Member wants to give retrospective effect to this. It is with very great difficulty that we are implementing this as Part II Scheme.

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Sir, is it not a fact that the Government have ordered to give compensation to such village officers basing upon the revenue collections made? Subsequently

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 343–344 infra.

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the Government have ordered to recover the commission from the village officers stating that they will be given the scales of pay from the date of taking over by the Government.

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU : A separate question may be put, Sir.

Roads between Madras City and Avadi

* 3087 *Q.*—Sri P. JEEVANANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any amount, and if so, how much, was spent by the Government in relaying, repairing or laying out new roads or on any other construction between Madras City and Avadi in connection with the Avadi Session of the All-India National Congress?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : A sum of Rs. 2·01 lakhs was incurred by the Government on road works to meet the needs of heavy traffic expected in and around Avadi.

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : May I know whether those roads are now being maintained properly?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Yes, ordinarily these works should have been carried out but we only accelerated them in view of the emergency.

Sri S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that out of the 500 miles of roads in the City, the Corporation was able to relay only 70 miles because of lack of financial resources? In view of that circumstance, will the Government in future at least be prepared to pay a much larger grant for roads in the main thoroughfares of the City, which are already in use?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : That is a separate question. That has no bearing on the present question.

Release of political prisoners

* 3088 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 801 on 21st February 1955 whether the Government have any proposal under consideration for the release of Sri Arakkal Kunhiraman Nambiar and Sri P. Kunhiraman, convicted political prisoners from the Cannanore Central Jail?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Sir, this question has come up before this House several times. In view of the fact that those who were convicted along with these prisoners were released already and in